

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action mailed on November 16, 2005. Currently, Claims 1-37 are pending in the application. Claims 11-37 are indicated as allowable. Claims 1 and 9 are rejected. Claims 2-8 and 10 are objected to.

The Rejection of Claims 1 and 9 Under Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

Claim 1 is rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1 and 4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,866,779.

Claim 9 is rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1 and 4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,866,779, in view of Valkanas et al. (EP 0474 895).

Enclosed herewith is a terminal disclaimer to obviate an obviousness-type double patenting rejection over a prior patent. The filing of the terminal disclaimer is not to be interpreted as acquiescence in the rejection.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 and 9 is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11-37 are allowed. Claims 2-8 and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. From the foregoing paragraph, applicant submits that Claims 1 and 9 are allowable. Accordingly, Claims 2-8 and 10 should be similarly allowable.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, applicant submits that Claims 1-37 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any further questions or comments, the Examiner may contact the applicant's attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

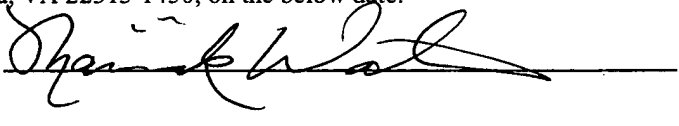
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date:

May 15, 2006 

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